

What can we learn from the life of the Jewish prophet Moses?

Upper KS2 and KS3



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Key Words

| Key Word | Meaning |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Moses | The greatest of all of the Jewish prophets. |
| Prophet / Prophetess | A spokesperson for God, chosen to convey a message or teaching. Prophets were role models of holiness, wisdom, and closeness to God |
| Miriam | Older sister of Moses and Aaron, and a prophetess in her own right. She helped Moses and Aaron lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt. |
| Aaron | Older brother of Moses. Founder of the priesthood, and the first High Priest. He helped Moses lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt. |
| Hebrew | The language that the Torah is written in and in which all prayer should be said. |
| Hebrews | People who are descendants of Abraham. Now the term Jew is often used to refer to the Hebrew people. They are known as God's chosen people. |
| Israelites | The Hebrew people who are the direct descendants of Jacob (also called Israel) - Abraham's grandson. |
| Egypt | Egypt is a country in North Africa, on the Mediterranean Sea, and is home to one of the oldest civilizations on earth. |
| Pharaoh | A term that is used use as a general name for all Egyptian kings in the Hebrew Bible. |
| Slave | Slavery was common in Ancient Egypt. Some of the slaves in Egypt were the poor who had to sell their children into slavery. A slave might be seen as a "person owned by a master." |
| Burning Bush | Described by the Book of Exodus as being located on Mount Horeb; according to the Bible, the bush was on fire, but was not consumed by the flames. In the Bible account, the burning bush is where Moses was appointed by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into Canaan |
| Holy | A word used to describe an object or place that is directly associated with God. |
| I AM WHO I AM | Moses asks God for His name, so he will have an answer when the people of Israel ask. The name of I AM is how God chose to introduce himself. |
| River Nile | The longest river in the world. The Nile was crucial for life in Egypt and was seen as the source of all life by the Ancient Egyptians. |
| Passover / Pesach | Holiday commemorating the Exodus from Egypt. The holiday also marks the beginning of the harvest season. It is sometimes called Pesach. |
| Passover Lamb / Paschal lamb | The paschal lamb, in Temple times, was sacrificed on this holiday. It is also a reminder of the blood that was put over the doors of the Hebrew homes. |
| Exodus | The freeing of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt under the leadership of Moses; also, the Old Testament book of the same name that tells the story. |

Key teaching notes

Who was Moses?

Moses is an important person for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. He was a religious leader, lawgiver, and prophet according to the Hebrew Bible and is seen as the most important prophet in Judaism.

According to the Book of Exodus, Moses was born in a time when his people (the Israelites) were increasing in number and the Egyptian Pharaoh was worried that they might help Egypt's enemies. Moses' Hebrew mother hid him when the Pharaoh ordered all new born Hebrew boys to be killed, and he ended up being adopted into the Egyptian royal family. After killing an Egyptian slave-master, Moses fled across the Red Sea to Midian where he tended the flocks of Jethro, a priest of Midian on the slopes of Mt. Horeb. Moses married Jethro's daughter and the couple had two sons. According to Exodus, one day Moses was tending his father-in-law, Jethro's, sheep and came to Mount Horeb. God's angel made a bush burn with fire, but it did not burn up. When he came nearer, God spoke to him and ordered him to remove his shoes as he was on holy land. God commanded him to be a leader for the Israelites and bring them out of Egypt. At first Moses did not want to do it and said that he was not good with words, but God commanded him and gave Aaron, his brother, to speak for him. Moses returned to Egypt and told the elders what happened.

After the Ten Plagues were unleashed on Egypt, Moses led the Hebrew people out of Egypt, across the Red Sea, where they based themselves at Horeb and compassed the borders of Edom. It was at this time that Moses received the Ten Commandments. Despite living to the age of 120, Moses died before reaching the Land of Israel.

How do Jews celebrate the life of Moses today?

Pesach (Passover) is one of the most important festivals in the Jewish calendar and is the festival celebrating Jews' freedom and remembering God's faithfulness in rescuing them from Egypt. In the past, it was one of three festivals of pilgrimage, focussed on the Temple in Jerusalem, but is now celebrated at home and in the synagogue. Preparation for Passover is important, as the house must be clean of any products containing leaven (yeast): unleavened products and bread called matzah is eaten for the 8 days of the festival. It is another family-centred event, focussing on the story of Moses and using symbolic foods as part of the celebratory seder meal. Each element on the seder plate is connected to the story of the Exodus, read from a book called the Haggadah, when the youngest member of the family asks 4 questions and the children play 'hunt the matzah', finding a hidden piece of broken matzah (afikoman). It is also traditional to leave an empty place at the table, set for Elijah, who every year, Jews hope will visit to announce the coming of Messiah. The final words at the table are 'Next year, in Jerusalem.'

Lesson 1: A people of faith

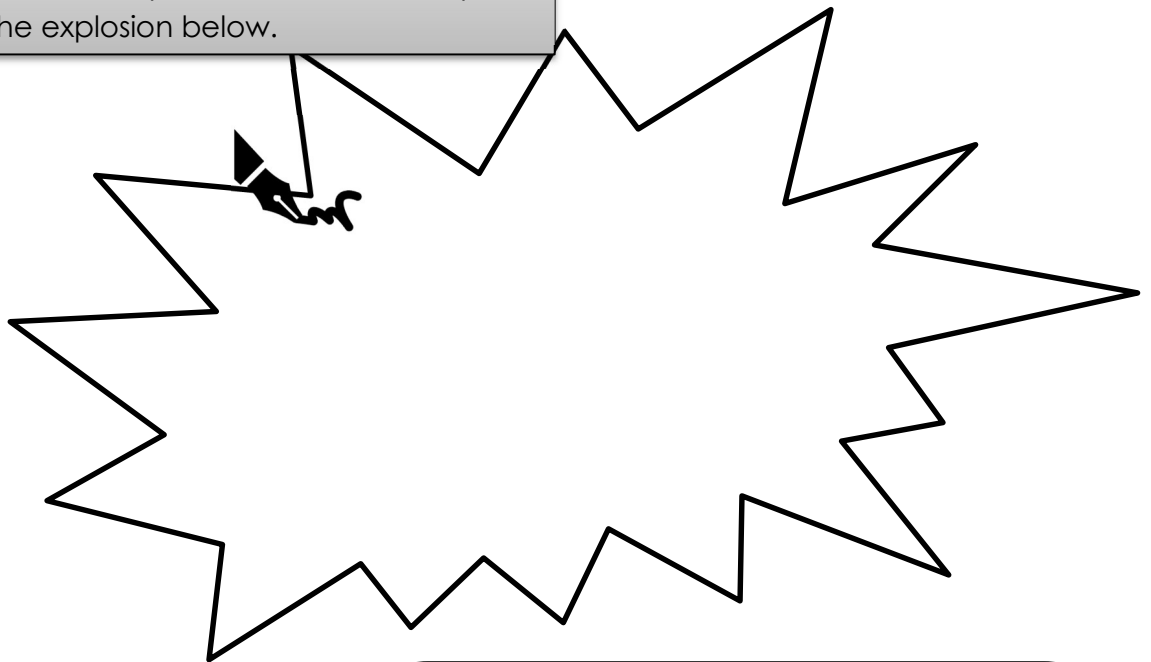
What's so important about faith in the life of Moses' family?

faith:

When you have faith, you trust or believe in something very strongly. It's often used when describing religion or the supernatural: people have faith in God, or actually refer to the religion they practice as their faith. Some choose to have the same amount of faith in a good friend or an object — anything that will come through for them in a time of need.

There is a lot in the news at the moment regarding faith in science and in the vaccine.

In whom or in what do you have faith? Write your thoughts in the explosion below.



'Faith gives you an inner strength and a sense of balance and perspective in life.'

Gregory Peck

Do you agree with Gregory Peck's quote about faith? Why or why not?





If possible, watch this short summary of Moses' life and then read the account below.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks1-the-jewish-story-of-moses/zmfp382>

Exodus Chapters 1 and 2

The Israelites Oppressed

A new king came to power in Egypt. ⁹ "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so, the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³ and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶ "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." ¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ¹⁸ Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?"

¹⁹ The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."

²⁰ So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

²² Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile but let every girl live."

The Birth of Moses

² Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket^[b] for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed

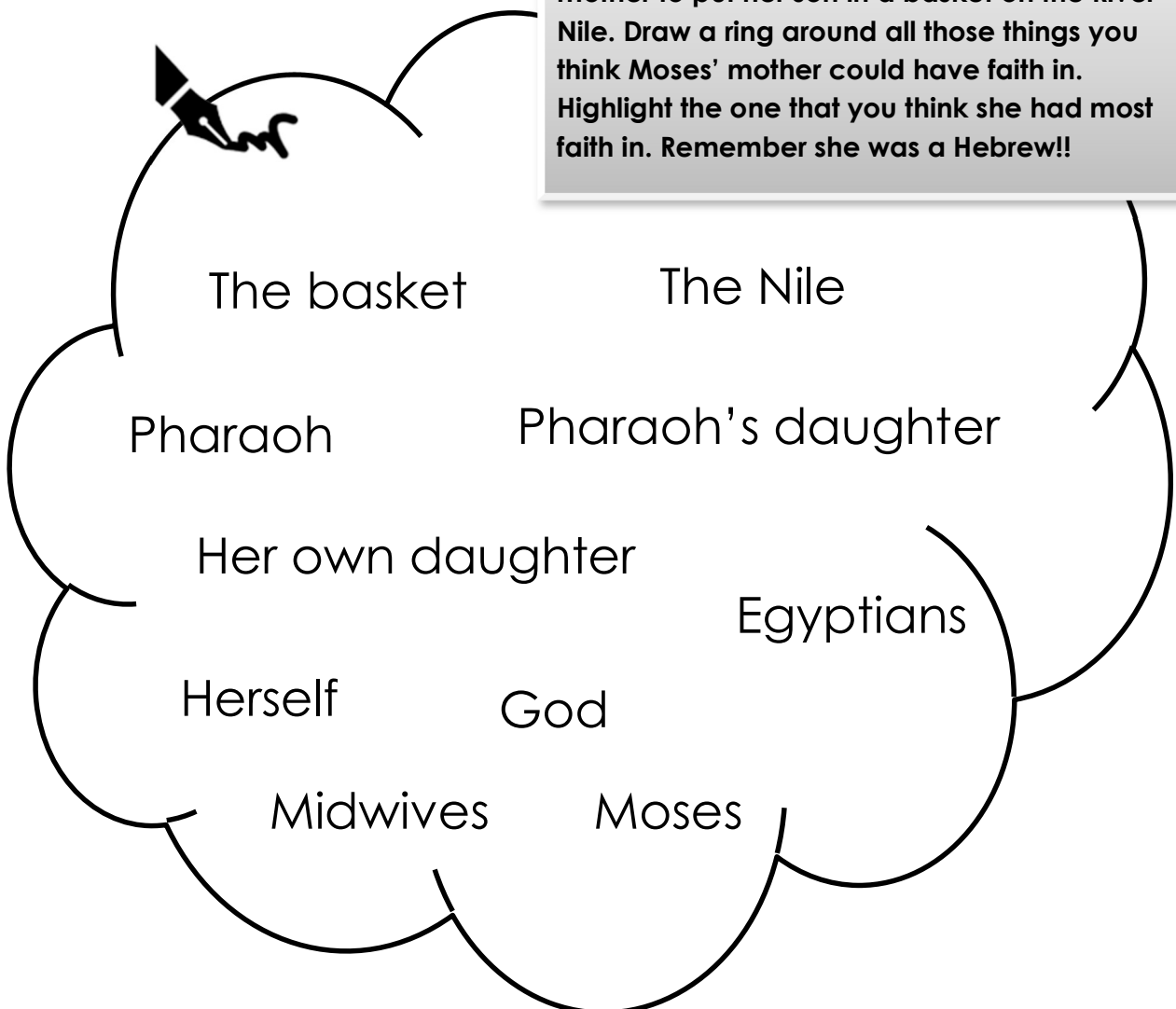
the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

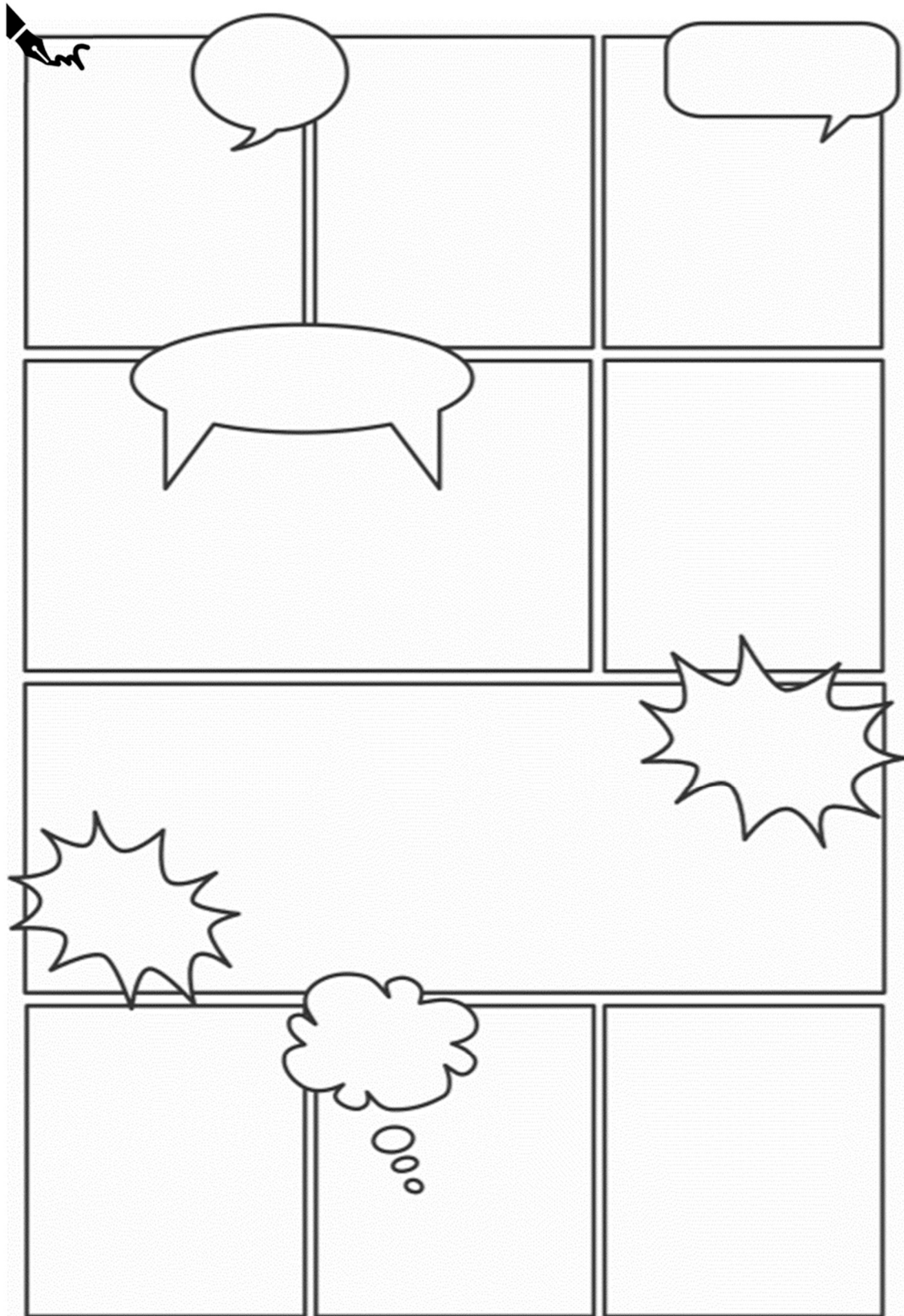
⁸ "Yes, go," she answered. So, the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So, the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

It must have taken a lot of faith for Moses' mother to put her son in a basket on the River Nile. Draw a ring around all those things you think Moses' mother could have faith in. Highlight the one that you think she had most faith in. Remember she was a Hebrew!!



Create a comic strip to retell the story of Exodus chapters 1 and 2

Use speech and thought bubbles to show thought and feelings.





Moses' mother and sister were women of great faith – it took a lot of courage and faith to put the baby Moses into the basket. Read the poem below. **What do you think you can learn from the lives of these two women?**

Miriam sat quietly on the bank of the river, her feet hanging over the edge.

It was wet. Miriam was worried.

She watched as her brother Moses bobbed up and down in the basket. She hoped he didn't wriggle too much. She dipped her fingers in the water.

It was wet. Miriam was worried.

Miriam wasn't sure that baby Moses, in a basket, in a river, was very safe. But if he stayed at home he would be killed because Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, was killing all the Hebrew baby boys.

Pharaoh was evil! Where was God?

The wind blew and Moses and the basket were blown down the river.

It was wet. Miriam was worried. Where was God?

A little way down the river Miriam heard female voices. 'If they see Moses, they will take him to Pharaoh, and he will be killed!' thought Miriam. Miriam crept closer.

Miriam was worried. Pharaoh was evil! Where was God?

Moses began to cry. One of the women saw Moses bobbing about and pulled him into the river bank. The basket wobbled.

It was wet. Miriam was worried. Where was God?

Miriam sat quietly and prayed, 'Please keep my little brother Moses safe.'

Miriam was worried. Pharaoh was evil! Where was God?

One of the women picked up Moses and cuddled him. Miriam crept even closer. Miriam heard the woman say, 'I am going to keep this baby even if he is a Hebrew. I can do what I like as I am Pharaoh's daughter!'

Miriam was worried. Pharaoh was evil! Where was God?

'Now,' said Pharaoh's daughter, 'All I need is someone to look after him for me.'

Miriam was worried. Pharaoh was evil! Where was God?

Suddenly Miriam felt brave. She felt an invisible hand push her forward. She said quietly, 'I know a woman who would be perfect for the job.'

'All right,' said Pharaoh's daughter, 'Fetch her.' And that is how Moses survived and grew up to lead his people.

RE Today

Going Deeper Challenge:

Think of a time when you had to show great courage or faith.

Write a similar poem to the one above about that time.

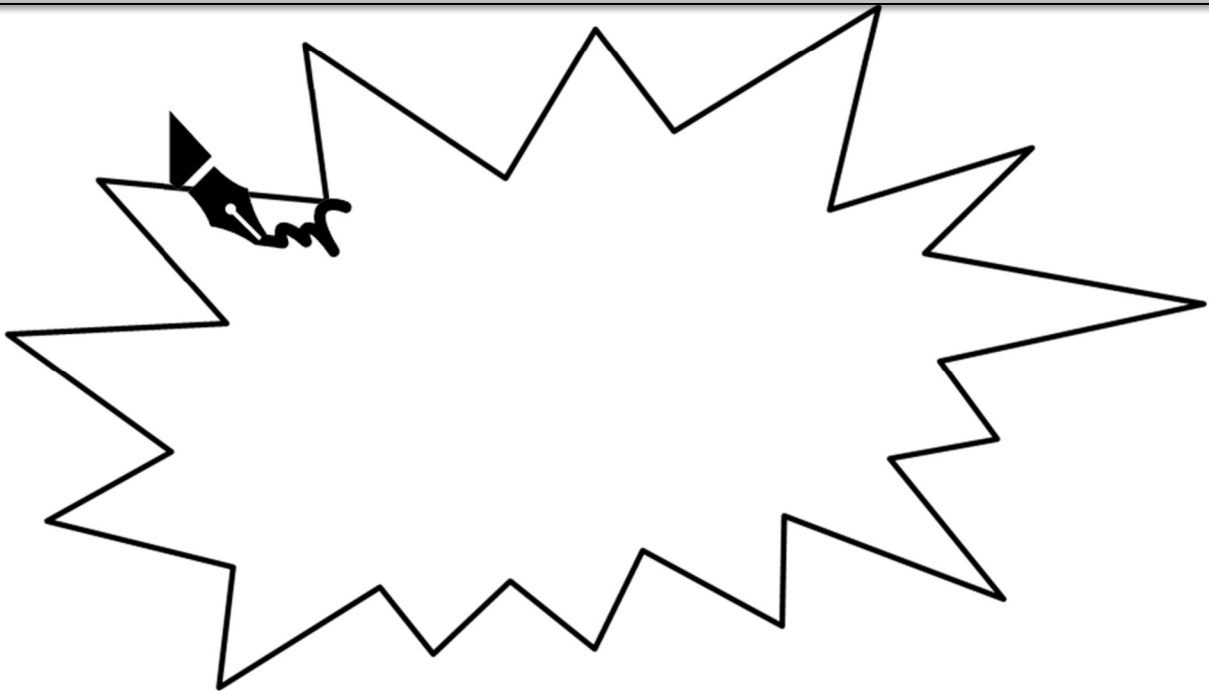


Lesson 2: A message of hope

How did Moses find forgiveness and hope again?

Has there ever been a time when you have done something so wrong that it seems as if all hope is lost? Were you ever found out? What happened? Did you have to ask for forgiveness? How was hope restored?

In the explosion below write some of the emotions that you felt before, during and after the event...



Read this account of Moses as a man and then if possible, watch the film to find out how Moses goes from zero to hero.

Exodus Chapter 2 Moses flees to Midian

11 Moses grew and became a man. One day he visited his people, the Hebrews. He saw that they were forced to work very hard. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew man, one of Moses' own people. 12 Moses looked all around and saw that no one was watching. So, he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand.

13 The next day Moses returned and saw two Hebrew men fighting each other. He saw that one man was in the wrong. Moses said to that man, "Why are you hitting one of your own people?"

14 The man answered, "Who made you our ruler and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?"

Then Moses was afraid. He thought, "Now everyone knows what I did."

15 When the king heard about what Moses had done, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses ran away from the king and went to live in the land of Midian. There he sat down near a well.

16 There was a priest in Midian who had seven daughters. His daughters went to that well to get water for their father's sheep. They were trying to fill the water troughs for their father's sheep. 17 But some shepherds came and chased the girls away. Then Moses defended the girls and watered their sheep.

18 Then they went back to their father, Reuel, also called Jethro. He asked them, "Why have you come home early today?"

19 The girls answered, "The shepherds chased us away. But an Egyptian defended us. He got water for us and watered our sheep."

20 He asked his daughters, "Where is this man? Why did you leave him? Invite him to eat with us."

21 Moses agreed to stay with Jethro. And Moses and Jethro's daughter, Zipporah, married. 22 Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom. Moses named him this because Moses was a stranger in a land that was not his own.

23 After a long time, the king of Egypt died. The people of Israel groaned because they were forced to work very hard. They cried for help. And God heard them. 24 God heard their cries, and he remembered the agreement he had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 25 God saw the troubles of the people of Israel, and he was concerned about them.



Watch the film clip: The Prince of Egypt - God Speaks to Moses

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ds9y3JJGig>

The Burning Bush – hope restored

3 One day Moses was taking care of Jethro's sheep. Jethro was the priest of Midian and also Moses' father-in-law. Moses led the sheep to the west side of the desert. He came to Sinai, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in flames of fire coming out of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but it

was not burning up. ³ So Moses said, "I will go closer to this strange thing. How can a bush continue burning without burning up?"

⁴ The Lord saw Moses was coming to look at the bush. So, God called to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵ Then God said, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals. You are standing on holy ground. ⁶ I am the God of your ancestors. I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." Moses covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The Lord said, "I have seen the troubles my people have suffered in Egypt. And I have heard their cries when the Egyptian slave masters hurt them. I am concerned about their pain. ⁸ I have come down to save them from the Egyptians. I will bring them out of that land. I will lead them to a good land with lots of room. This is a land where much food grows. This is the land of these people: the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ I have heard the cries of the people of Israel. I have seen the way the Egyptians have made life hard for them. ¹⁰ So now I am sending you to the king of Egypt. Go! Bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt!"

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "I am not a great man! Why should I be the one to go to the king and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² God said, "I will be with you. This will be the proof that I am sending you: You will lead the people out of Egypt. Then all of you will worship me on this mountain."

¹³ Moses said to God, "When I go to the Israelites, I will say to them, 'The God of your ancestors sent me to you.' What if the people say, 'What is his name?' What should I tell them?"

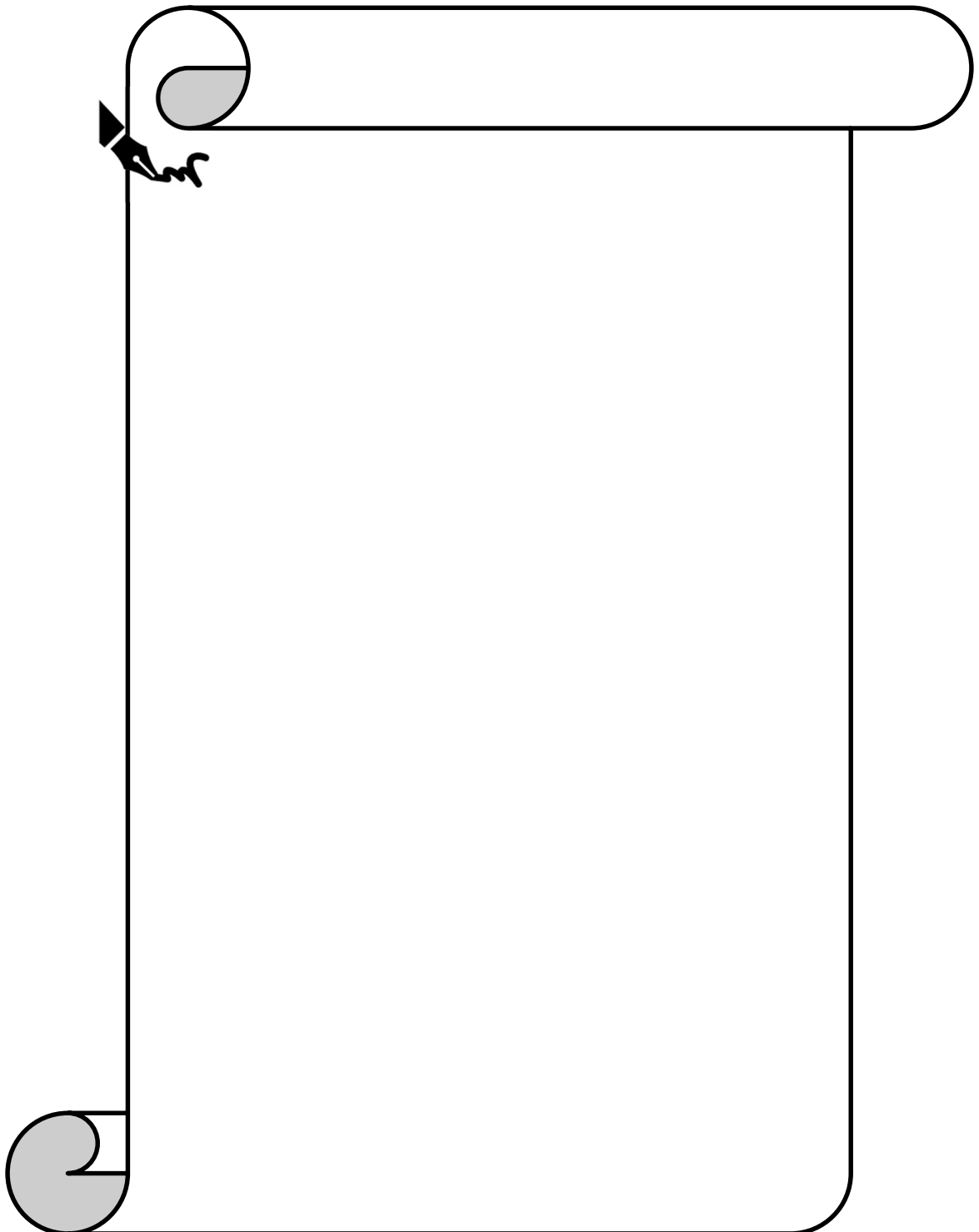
¹⁴ Then God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. [Ⓜ] When you go to the people of Israel, tell them, 'I AM sent me to you.'"

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "This is what you should tell the people: 'The Lord is the God of your ancestors. He is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. And he sent me to you.' This will always be my name. That is how people from now on will know me."

Was Moses a Hero or a Villain?

'We're all villains sometimes and we can all be heroes sometimes.' Is this true for Moses? Should there always be a hope of a second chance?

Imagine that you are in a court of law– write a closing speech to argue whether Moses was a hero or a villain. Use evidence from the account in Exodus to back up your point of view.



An emotions graph

Plot Moses' emotions at different points in the Exodus account.



What can we learn about life by looking at Moses' experiences?

Is life always easy? Do we all make mistakes?

When we make mistakes should we just simply give up?

What changes Moses from villain to hero? Is it the passing of time, the voice of God, or his own ambition?



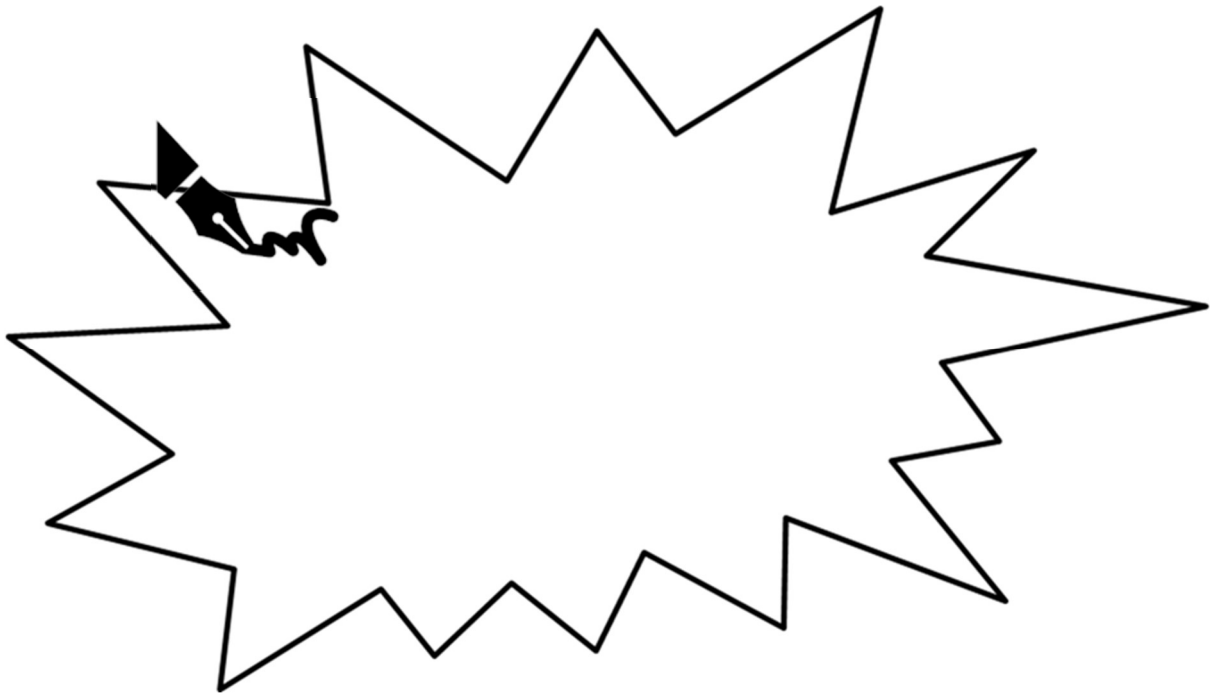
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|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
|  | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
|  | | | | | |
| | Living as a prince | After he killed an Egyptian | When he had to leave Egypt | Living in Midian | The thought of returning to Egypt |

Lesson 3: A God of love

Where is hope to be found in the toughest of times?

With the outbreak of Covid19 and the various lock downs – this has probably been the toughest time that many of us have ever had to live through. Write down some of the words to describe how you and your family have been feeling?

Highlight any of the words that you think the Hebrew people would also have felt.



Exodus 4 -12 - Moses returns to Egypt

The Bible tells us that God heard the cries of the Hebrew people who had lost all hope and through love God wanted to end their suffering. God gave the Pharaoh every opportunity to let the Hebrews go but he simply refused to do so.

Moses returned to Egypt and spoke to the Pharaoh about all that had happened, and all the God had said but Pharaoh refused to let the Hebrew people free. When Pharaoh continued to refuse to liberate the children of Israel, Moses and Aaron warned him that God would punish both him and his people with a series of plagues.

From the picture below, from reading the account in Exodus or from watching the film, list the first 9 plagues:

The Ten Plagues <https://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/what-are-10-plagues-egypt>



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| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
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| 5 | |
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| 7 | |
| 8 | |
| 9 | |

After each plague, the pharaoh would promise to let the Hebrew people free, but he soon backed down and would then refuse to set them free. After the ninth plague things were very different.

Now Pharaoh became angry and ordered Moses and Aaron to leave and never to return. He warned them that if they were to come before him again, they would die.

Moses replied that it would not be necessary for them to see Pharaoh, for God would send one more plague over Egypt, after which Pharaoh would give his unconditional permission for the children of Israel to leave Egypt.

Exactly at midnight, Moses continued, the angel of death would pass over Egypt and all first born, man and beast would die. He went on, 'Of the children of Israel, however, nobody would die. A bitter cry will sweep Egypt, and all the Egyptians will be gripped with terror. Then you, Pharaoh, will come to seek out the leaders of the Hebrews, and beg us to leave Egypt without delay!'

With these words, Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, who was seething with rage.

It is hard to understand why Pharaoh refused to let the Hebrews go. But he was stubborn and did not want to lose the slaves that worked for no.

Sadly, slavery has continued throughout history and there are even slaves today around the world – even in the UK.

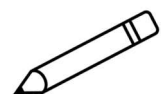
Thankfully, there are still those who are speaking out against slavery, just as Moses did.



Find out more below...

Using the facts below to inspire you design a poster against modern day slavery.

Entitle it 'Hope in the Darkness.'



Fact Sheet on Modern Day Slavery (<https://www.modernslaveryeducation.com/take-action>)

What is slavery?

Slavery is when someone is treated as an object that can be bought and sold. They will be forced to work with little or no pay. They are not allowed their freedoms and can be mistreated. They are not allowed home or to leave the house. Sometimes they are tricked into slavery by thinking they have been offered a job.

Is Slavery Illegal?

Yes, slavery is illegal in the UK and all around the world. Despite this, it still continues today as a criminal activity.

When was slavery banned?

Slavery was banned in 1807, when it became illegal to own a slave in the UK through the abolitionist movement. Activists got together 350,000 signatures to convince parliament to act. In 1833 the anti-slavery bill was passed.

Who banned slavery in the UK?

A politician called William Wilberforce banned slavery. He spent 20 years petitioning for freedom of slaves. In 1833 the law was passed, and William died that same year aged 73.

What is Modern Day Slavery?

Modern Slavery is the term used to describe slavery that happens in the 21st century.

Who could be a slave?

There is no particular person who could be a slave. In the transatlantic slave trade, slaves were brought over from Africa and sold. Today, anyone could be a slave from any nation, any gender, and any age group.

Does it happen in the UK?

Yes, Modern Slavery happens in every country around the world - but it shouldn't

How many slaves are there in the world?

An estimated 40-45 million (according to the Global Slavery Index, 2018).

How many slaves are there in the UK?

According to the Home Office about 10,000-13,000 people are slaves in the UK. However, there may be many more.

Which Industries does Slavery occur in?

Slavery is often found around the world in industries such as the textile industry, the fishing industry, the farming industry (including in the UK), House Helpers and other means of forced labour (e.g. some car washes, nail bars, building driveways).

How are slaves treated?

Slaves can be treated very badly, often living in dirty houses with many other people. They may not be allowed to take showers or eat properly. In severe circumstances they may get hurt. They can be very sad as they might not know where their families are, or whether they will ever get to go home.

Why do people do it?

It is hard to explain why people make other slaves, but we all know the right thing to do is to pay everyone fairly and let them have their freedoms.

Should we stop it?

Slavery should definitely be stopped, and there are laws from the government that try to protect the human rights of slaves. There is more that needs to be done to rescue and protect those who are held in slavery.

Lesson 4 A Time to remember and celebrate

Why is the Passover so important to the Jews?



If possible, watch these films about the Passover

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/znwhfg8/articles/zn22382>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-celebrating-passover/z4kvrj6>

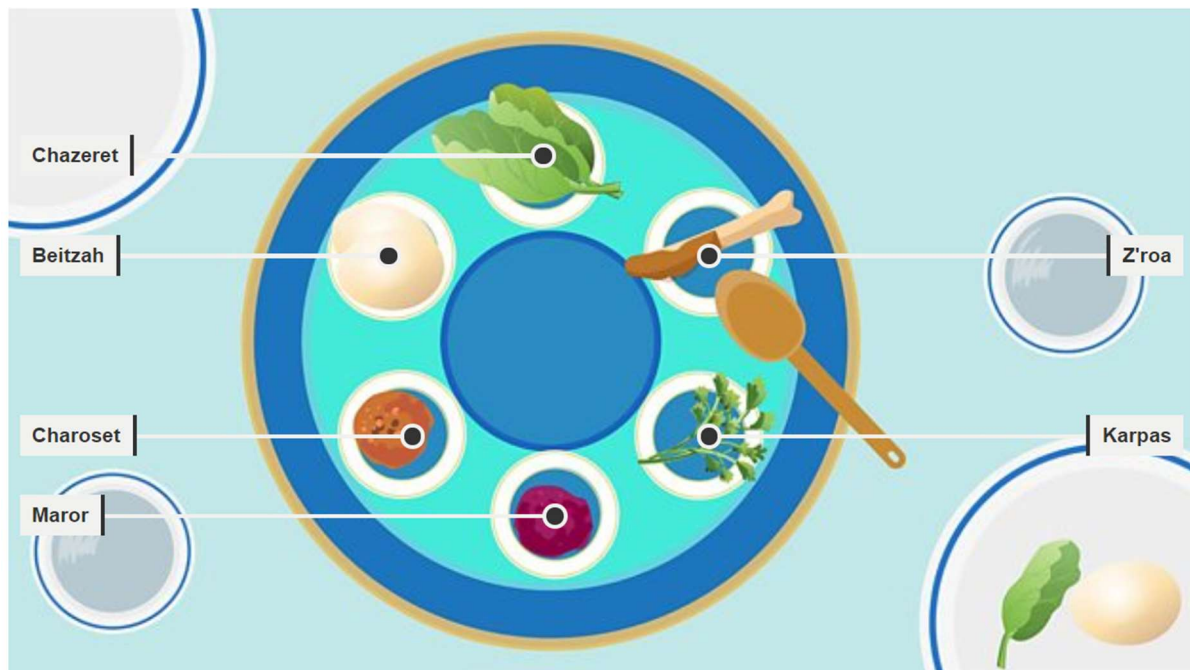
Tenth Plague: Death of the First-Born. God sent the Angel of death to go throughout the land of Egypt, and if anyone did not have the blood of a lamb placed upon the doorpost of their house, that house would be hit by death of the first born. The Israelites were quick to obey God and put lamb's blood around their doors. They also baked flat bread to take with them as they did not have time to let it rise. The Egyptians suffered greatly with the loss of their firstborn, even in the house of Pharaoh. (Exodus 11).




When the Angel of death saw the blood on the doorpost it would "pass-over" that house and the firstborn son was spared. This is where the name Passover comes from.

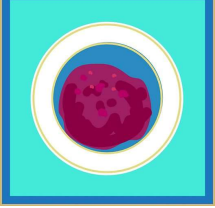


Today Passover is a celebration of the story of Moses as found in **Exodus**. During Passover, Jews remember how their ancestors left slavery behind them when they were led out of Egypt by Moses. Passover is celebrated with a series of rituals. Each ritual symbolises a different part of the story. Passover (or Pesach in Hebrew) is one of the most important festivals in the Jewish year. It is a Spring festival that begins on the 15th day of Nisan, the first month of the Jewish calendar. The celebrations last for seven or eight days, depending on where you live. In 2021 Passover begins on the evening of Saturday 27 March.

At Passover, a Seder plate is used to help people remember the story of the Moses and the Exodus from Egypt.

Seder Plate



| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Chazeret</p> <p>Bitter herbs such as romaine lettuce and endive. These represent the bitterness of slavery.</p> |
|  | <p>Beitzah</p> <p>A hardboiled egg as a symbol of mourning. This is to remember the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. It also has another meaning. Food usually becomes soft when cooked, but eggs become harder, so the egg is a symbol of the Jews' determination to keep their faith.</p> |
|  | <p>Charoset</p> <p>A sweet brown paste made of fruit and nuts. This represents the mortar that the Israelites used for building bricks when they were slaves in Egypt.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Maror</p> <p>Bitter herbs which are often made from horseradish. Like the Chazeret, they are a symbol of the bitter suffering of the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt.</p> |
|  | <p>Z'roa</p> <p>A lamb bone which represents the lamb that was sacrificed and brought to the temple the night before the Israelites left Egypt.</p> |
|  | <p>Karpas</p> <p>Celery stalks or parsley are dipped into a little bowl of salted water during the Seder. Karpas is a symbol of the spring harvest and the salty water represents the Israelites' tears when they were slaves.</p> |

Matzah

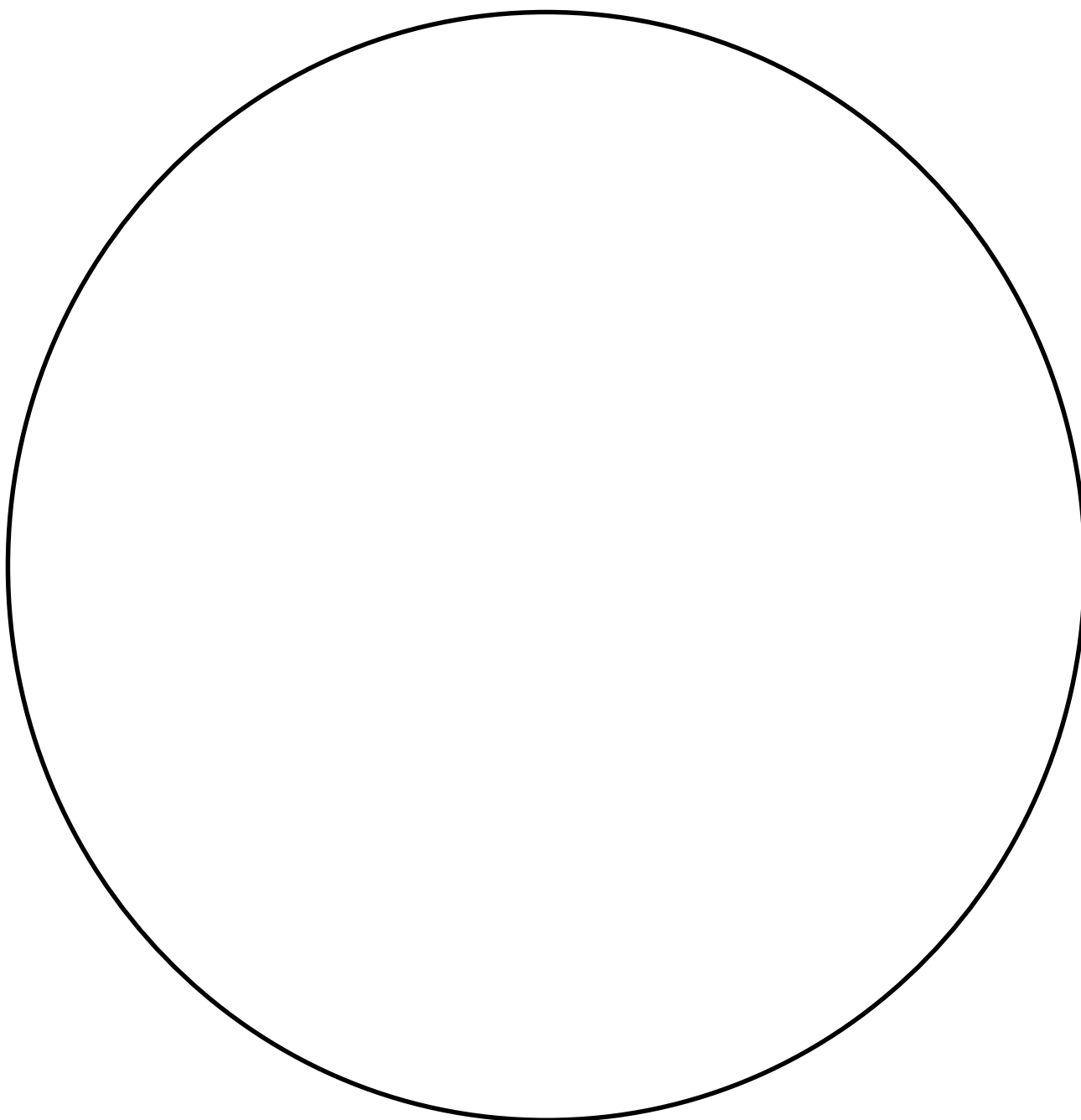
On the table there are three Matzah (bread that is flat because it has not risen). At the start of the Seder, the middle Matzah is broken, and the largest piece is hidden. During the Seder, the children hunt for it. The one who finds it receives a small prize.

Wine

Four small glasses of wine remind Jews of the four times God promised freedom to the Israelites. An extra cup of wine is placed on the table and the door is left open for the prophet Elijah. Jews believe that one day, Elijah will reappear, and he will announce the coming of the Messiah.

Using all that you have learned about Moses – design a Seder plate that a Jewish family could use at Passover to help them to remember the story of the Exodus of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt.

My Seder Plate



Lesson 5 Time to remember today

Holocaust Memorial Day

Sadly, the story of Moses and the Hebrew people living as slaves in Egypt is not the only time that the Jewish people have suffered throughout history. The Holocaust describes the killing of over six-million Jews before and during World War II.

These killings were organised by the German Nazi party and were directed by the party leader, Adolf Hitler.

Hitler blamed the Jews for Germany losing the First World War and for the financial problems in Germany during the 1920s. In fact, Hitler sought to blame the Jews for many of his country's problems.

He made the Jews a scapegoat and sought to promote a widespread public hatred of them. Jews had to wear a symbol called the Star of David so that others could recognise them. This prejudice against Jews is called antisemitism.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2021 is 'Be the light in the darkness.' It encourages everyone to reflect on the depth's humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide.

Be the light in the darkness is an affirmation and a call to action for everyone marking HMD. This theme asks us to consider different kinds of 'darkness', for example, identity-based persecution, misinformation, denial of justice; and different ways of 'being the light', for example, resistance, acts of solidarity, rescue and illuminating mistruths.

'Holocaust Memorial Day is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own - it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. We're fortunate here in the UK; we are not at immediate risk of genocide. However, discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.'

Responding to Prejudice, Injustice and Hatred Through Art

How can I express my own vision for justice and equality?

Spirited Arts

Spirited Arts is an annual competition run since 2004 for RE pupils. The competition gives you a chance to be creative and imaginative in RE. It is all about spiritual ideas and your skills.

There is a wonderful online art gallery & poetry collection. Last year over 30,000 pieces were created, and some of the best are on show there.

If you enter this year, perhaps your art will be in the gallery next time! Have a look at these examples and choose some favourites of your own.

Pupils and their teachers are warmly invited to join in! Entries are welcomed from January of each year and the closing date is 31 July. Visit www.natre.org.uk for full entry information

Using the theme from the competition, experience from your own life, inspiration from the Passover or the HMD create a piece of art under the title:
“We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us.”

Your piece of art could just be shared with your teacher or if you wanted to it could also be entered into the spiritual art competition.